



Court of Common Council

CITY OF HARTFORD
550 MAIN STREET
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06103

OFFICE OF COUNCILWOMAN WILDALIZ BERMUDEZ

Hartford, March 8, 2016

Members of the Labor & Public Employees Committee
State Legislature
Connecticut

Honorable Legislators:

I want to express my support to SB 221 "An act concerning paid family and medical leave". As a resident and Council Member of our Capital city, I've seen our residents having to struggle between important economic decisions that will impact their families forever, just because they cannot afford to live without a job that does not offer a living wage but also they need time to stay with a sick child or relative.

Our City has limited resources to provide better education for our residents, which forces them to apply for lower-paying jobs just to get some income for them and their families. Usually, the limited opportunities offered to them are at McDonalds, Wal-Mart or Dunkin Donuts and the applicants are not teenagers earning pocket money; I see adults –mostly women- who have to work full time to provide for their kids and cannot make any money if they don't show up to work, facing that difficult decision to either work or stay at home with their loved ones who need them.

And this program is not only to benefit employees: By offering businesses the opportunity for their employees to apply to a paid family medical leave program, not only statistics show that the business could save money, but they can compete with larger business for better talent and have less absenteeism, work day distractions, supervisory time and hourly reductions.

As someone who also has to make difficult decisions and to face challenges at the local government level, I encourage you to make the lives of our constituents a little bit better by making the burden less heavy to carry. Please support and vote in favor of this bill.

Respectfully,

Wildaliz Bermudez
Minority Leader
Hartford City Council